

## **Coronavirus update and school plan**

Dear Parent,

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We're getting in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We'd like to reassure you that at all academies within the Trust we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our communities and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and local authority.

### **What's the current situation?**

- All our schools remain open – this is the current official guidance we've been given
- All school functions continue to run as normal, including breakfast and after-school clubs, but school trips and swimming sessions are cancelled for the time being to limit social interaction and transport.
- Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 14 days**:
  - a high temperature (above 37.8c)– they feel hot to touch on their chest or back
  - a new, continuous cough – this means they've started coughing repeatedly.
- Anyone who lives in the same household as someone who is displaying the above symptoms will also need to self-isolate for 14 days.
- If your child is unwell, report this absence to your child's school as you would normally.
- We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation

### **What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff**

- Cleaning and disinfecting regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using our standard cleaning products
- Supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues
- Whole school assemblies are being replaced with class assemblies to limit social interaction
- School trips and swimming sessions are cancelled for the time being, again to limit social interaction and transport. A full refund will be provided.
- Additional lessons in the importance of good hygiene.

### **What happens if your child develops symptoms in school.**

If your child becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in school, they will need to go home and we will contact you to collect them. We have already ensured that our schools have a room where children can be isolated and supervised

### **What we need you to do**

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible**
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)
- In the event of school closures we aim to provide pupils with relevant learning resources through both paper copies and optional online resources. In addition to this, many commercial educational organisations are offering free online resources.

### **What happens if the school has to close or partially close?**

We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school. However, with the latest guidance advising anyone who lives with someone displaying coronavirus symptoms should also stay at home for 14 days as well as pregnant staff members advised to take particular care to minimise their social contact, the situation will be particularly challenging for us.

In either case, we'll contact you by **Weduc/ email**.

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close, but the guidance from the government can change with little advanced notice. We will be following guidance regarding attendance and NOT imposing fines at this time.

### **If you have any questions**

- We are receiving high volume of calls asking whether children should come to school. Schools are unable to offer such medical advice. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools

It is a difficult time and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on your community. I would asked parents NOT to take out their anxieties on school staff who are working hard in difficult circumstances. Rest assured, we are doing everything possible to mitigate any risks.

Thank you for your continued support.

Simon O'Keefe.



CEO, The Stour Academy Trust